



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Forest
Service
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A scenic photograph of the Chugach National Forest. The foreground is filled with lush green foliage. In the middle ground, there is a dense forest of evergreen trees, with a small, curved wooden structure visible on the left. The background features majestic, snow-capped mountain peaks under a clear sky.

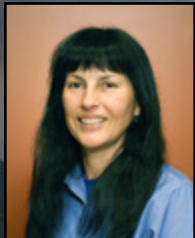
State of the Chugach

FY2012

Chugach National Forest Annual Report & Overview



Welcome to the Chugach National Forest



Welcome to the Chugach National Forest, the third largest, and the most northerly, in the National Forest System. People have lived, worked and visited the Chugach for generations, and Alaska Natives have fished, hunted and celebrated here since time immemorial. The Chugach is a place where distinctive cultures, customs and ways of life converge – urban and rural residents alike come for subsistence, work and adventure.

The Forest is literally the backyard to half of Alaska's people, and we work hard to meet the needs of our diverse stakeholders. In the following pages you'll see a snapshot of our employees' and partners' accomplishments in 2012, including their:

- Work with communities to provide economic value
- Engagement with youth and communities in our Chugach Children's Forest Service
- Efforts to highlight the unique local and global connections of the Chugach National Forest
- Leadership in strategic partnerships and community collaborations
- Connection with diverse audiences for employment and services

This past year was also notable for a major office move. In June 2012, the Chugach National Forest Supervisor's Office along with the USFS Alaska Region State & Private Forestry and Pacific Northwest Research Station moved into the Alaska Railroad's historic renovated Freight Shed in Ship Creek near downtown Anchorage.

The move marked a return to the Forest's historic roots. Within two years of its inception in 1907, the Chugach National Forest had grown to encompass most of modern day Anchorage, including Ship Creek, site of one of the Forest's early offices. One



Ship Creek in pre-Forest Service Days, circa 1924.

of our employees at that time, Jack Brown (and his wife Nellie), was the first permanent resident of Anchorage. Jack and Nellie's first tent in Ship Creek served as their home and Forest Service headquarters. In 1917 the Forest Supervisor recommended removing the area from the Forest, in part because of construction of the Railroad. By 1919, the area had been withdrawn from the Forest.

We're proud of our historic connection to all the communities we serve, and are pleased this has come full circle in Anchorage. I encourage you to visit us at our new location, and more importantly, to get outside and enjoy all the opportunities the Chugach National Forest has to offer.

Terri Marceron
Terri Marceron
Chugach National Forest Supervisor



AKRR CEO Christopher Aadnesen, Mayor Dan Sullivan, Senator Mark Begich, Deputy Regional Forester Ruth Monahan and Chugach National Forest Supervisor Terri Marceron cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the new Chugach National Forest offices.

THE CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

EST 1907

Roughly the size of New Hampshire, its 5.4 million acres serve as the accessible backyard for half of Alaska's population. The forest has been continuously inhabited by Alaska Natives for more than 10,000 years; the first nations include the Chugach, Eyak, Ahtna and Dena'ina Athabaskan.



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On the Horizon for 2013: Forest Plan Revision

In February, 2012 the Chugach was selected as one of eight national forests across the country to revise its forest plan.

We are now in the first phase of a three year planning process to revise the 2002 forest plan under a new National Forest System Planning Rule. The forest plan provides direction for managing resources and activities such as recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, historic and sacred sites, vegetation, mineral exploration and development, and timber.

During phase one, also known as the "assessment," the Forest Service will identify and evaluate existing information about ecological, economic and social conditions and trends related to the Forest. The resulting assessment report will provide a solid base of current information for phases two, drafting the revised plan and completing an environmental impact statement (EIS), and three, developing a monitoring strategy.

The public is invited to engage across all three years!

LEARN MORE AT WWW.FS.USDA.GOV/CHUGACH

ECONOMIC ENGINE - RECREATION & TOURISM

NEW DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE TRACKS



With the construction of the Grandview Whistle Stop, there are now two whistle stops in place along the Alaska Railroad line through the eastern Kenai Peninsula.

Next year, the Forest Service and Alaska Railroad will focus on finalizing rail access to the Grandview stop and begin to develop the trail that will connect it to the Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop.

WHISTLE STOPS



Each season since 2007 the Spencer Whistle Stop has grown in popularity and we anticipate another banner year as the Whistle Stops and the trail that ties them together continue to develop.

Amenities at the site include two pavilions made from beautiful and sturdy Alaska yellow cedar shipped up from our sister forest the Tongass. There is a vault toilet midway on the trail, and visitors can appreciate the glacier while standing on the lakeside viewing platform, complete with interpretive signs. New gravel covers the trail, and it conforms to accessibility standards. We expect the new Spencer Bench Cabin to be finished in 2013-14, and it will offer incredible views of Spencer Glacier from its alpine meadow.

PLACER RIVER BRIDGE



Construction on the new Placer River Bridge, the first step in connecting the Spencer and Grandview Whistle Stops, is nearly complete and we expect it to be finalized in 2013. An American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project, the bridge is an impressive feat of engineering set in appropriately impressive surroundings.

Shipped in modules from Oregon, the bridge was assembled on-site, with construction on both sides meeting in the middle. As it stands astride the Placer River, it is the longest single-span wood truss bridge in North America.



A YEAR-ROUND DESTINATION

Located in south central Alaska just 50 miles north of Anchorage, the Chugach forms a great arc around Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska, more than 200 miles from the Kenai Peninsula to the remote and wild Copper River Delta. It is literally the backyard to half of Alaska's people. Within 5.4 million acres three forests exist within one: there is something to appeal to almost everyone at any time of the year. Head out on your own or with one of approximately 150 outfitters and guides operating on the Chugach National Forest. With 41 remote cabins, and 15 campgrounds with more than 400 campsites scattered around the forest, you can get away from it all.

THE KENAI PENINSULA is less than an hour drive from Anchorage and from there access to hiking, biking, skiing, snowmachining, camping, picnicking, and wildlife watching is wide open. There are over 520 miles of trails, from easy family-friendly loops to multi-day routes.

THE COPPER RIVER DELTA is the largest wetland in the Western Hemisphere. Millions of birds stop on the Delta to rest and feed while migrating between the arctic in the summer and winter habitat far to the south. Trumpeter swans and the dusky Canada goose stay for the summer. The Delta is home year round for bears, moose, bald eagles, and wolves. Have your camera and binoculars ready for whatever the Delta shows you.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND provides excellent opportunities for adventure, solitude and wildlife observation. The Sound has more tidewater glaciers than any other region in North America. Immense ice fields surround this inland waterway and give rise to magnificent tidewater glaciers that tumble to the sea. Icebergs and post-glacial terrain are hallmarks of the landscape, offering a unique glimpse of geology and reforestation in action.

ECONOMIC ENGINE

MINERALS MANAGEMENT

Placer gold was produced from numerous drainages on the Forest by nearly 50 authorized operations. Many additional small-scale operators worked towards their initial discovery, driven by gold prices above \$1700 per ounce. Untold numbers of recreationalists also tried their hand at gold recovery using gold pans and other small hand tools.

In 2012, more than 100,000 tons of mineral materials, primarily sand & gravel, were produced to support numerous road construction infrastructure projects, winter highway traction sand, and for use as decorative stone. Mineral materials are also made available to residents by free-use permit for personal use and 61 individuals requested and received permits during 2012.

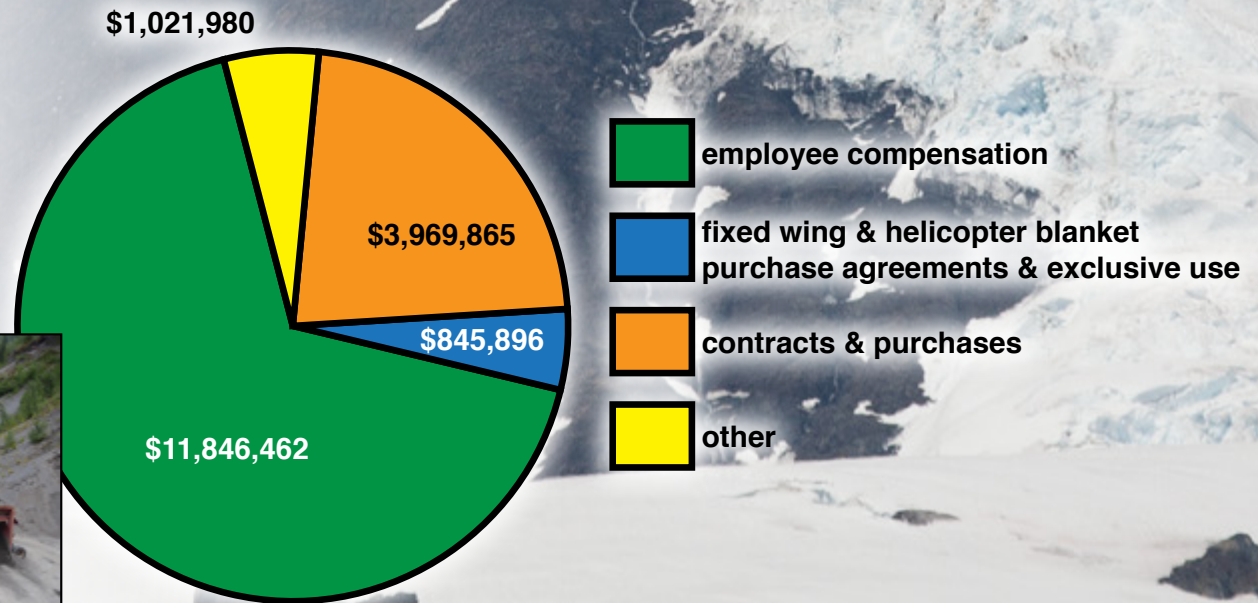


Large mechanical operation at Hope Mining Company on Resurrection Creek.



Screening traction sand at 33 Mile of the Seward Highway.

TOTAL FUNDS OBLIGATED IN FY 2012:



\$17,684,203

Forest employment numbers

- 127 permanent employees living and investing in surrounding communities
- More than 80 seasonal employees hired in 2012

ECONOMIC ENGINE - SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS

The Chugach National Forest has two Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) – **Kenai Peninsula-Anchorage Borough and Prince William Sound** – that solicit and prioritize projects to be funded by **Title II of The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act**. The RACs, comprised of citizen advisors from communities across the Forest, consider projects that improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure, implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems, and restore and improve land health and water quality. The projects benefit local economies, residents and visitors across Southcentral, Alaska. The projects below were funded in 2011 and implemented in 2012.

Kenai Peninsula Project Total: \$516,505

Bean Creek Watershed Vegetation Enhancement (create defensible space for fighting fire and maintaining or enhancing wildlife habitat)

Connector Trails (improve trail connections between Girdwood Nordic trail system, and Winner Creek Trail)

Cooper Creek Campground North, Stream Bank Stability (stabilize stream bank to protect and restore fish access to quality spawning and rearing habitat)

Cooperative Weed Management Round 2 (manage and control existing invasive plant populations, eradicate small invasive plant populations and reintroduce native species)

Crow Creek Road Maintenance (provide safe access for public and emergency vehicles to Crow Creek Trailhead)

Girdwood Nordic Trail Improvements (harden surface of trail, improve drainage and re-vegetate trail)

Kenai Peninsula Restoration Corps: Stewardship with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) (implement Stewardship and Restoration Projects across the Kenai Peninsula)

Stetson Creek Trail Reconstruction (trail maintenance & improvements)

Vagt Lake Trail Reconstruction (trail maintenance & improvements)

RAC Funds: the origin

Title II funds were allocated from 2008 - 2011 to states with forest lands on the basis of timber receipts or formula calculations that incorporated acres of federal land, timber receipts, and an income adjustment based on per capita personal income by county. Funding was authorized to be used for projects that enhance forest ecosystems and improve cooperative relationships.

Visit www.fs.usda.gov/main/pts/specialprojects for more background on SRS Title II legislation and history.

Prince William Sound Projects Total: \$2,872,878,

25 Mile Channel (re-establish coho spawning channel)

Airport Display (replace interpretive display)

Alaska Geographic Campsite Restoration

(restore dispersed campsites in Prince William Sound)

Alaska Geographic Invasives (remove invasive plants in Prince William Sound)

Alaganik 22 Mile Picnic Site (reduce recreation impacts, protect water quality)

Alice Smith Trail (trail maintenance and improvements)

Childs Glacier North Trail (trail maintenance & improvements)

Coghill Lake Trail (trail maintenance & improvements)

Coghill & Shrode Trail/Additional funds

Crater Lake Trail (trail maintenance & improvements)

Cordova Ranger District Invasives

(prevent Invasive Plant Infestations with Rapid Response)

Ducks Unlimited Nest Islands (improve nesting habitat for dusky Canada Geese)

Emerald Cove Trail Restoration

Eyak Mt. Trail (increase access to Cordova Ranger District trails by restoring an in-town connector trail)

Galena Bay Platform (remediate and improve two existing campsites in the Bay)

Horsetail Fall Trail (repair and enhance trail)

Ibeck Off Highway Vehicle Trail re-route (repair Coho salmon habitat)

Knowles Head (Zen Spot) (remove old bridge and sediment in spawning areas)

Mineral Creek Public Access (restore access to Port Valdez and Prince William Sound)

Moose Browse (winter range habitat improvement)

Moose vegetation treatment

Naked Island Debris (remove plastic debris from Naked Island shores)

Odiak Pond Restoration (improve spawning and rearing areas for coho)

Odiak Pond/Additional Funds

Pete Dahl (field Camp Improvement)

Pipeline Lakes Cutthroat Trout (re-introduce native cutthroat trout for sport fishing)

Portage Pass Trail (trail reconstruction and extension)

Prince William Sound Cleanup (remove trash and abandoned materials)

Prince William Sound Marine Debris Cleanup

Shakespeare Creek Culvert Replacement (install a fish-friendly culvert for vehicular traffic to historic Portage Pass Trailhead)

Shrode Lake (trail reconstruction)

Whittier Invasive Weeds (reduce invasive plant species from around Whittier.)

Whittier Weeds Phase II (monitor invasive eradication efforts in Whittier.)

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS - Project Highlights



BEAN CREEK WATERSHED VEGETATION ENHANCEMENT

In May 2012 we joined RAC funds with Chugach National Forest funds

(wildlife and hazardous fuels) to treat 167 acres in the project area. An Alaskan firm won the contract to implement mechanical vegetation treatments. The contractor will work during both the summer and winter for up to two years to complete the project.

HABITAT RESTORATION KAYAKING EXPEDITIONS

Chugach Children's Forest launched two stewardship expeditions in 2012 to bring under-represented youth from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds

to the stunning Prince William Sound for habitat restoration projects. These kayak-based expeditions focused on recreational opportunities available on the Chugach National Forest, and participants included seventeen teens from around the Chugach including Valdez, Tatitlek, Whittier, Girdwood, and Anchorage.

Restoration projects included weed removal and trail and campsite improvements.



photo courtesy of Alaska Geographic



DUSKY CANADA GOOSE NEW NEST ISLAND INSTALL

Nest islands built to help the Dusky population recover from lasting effects of the '64 earthquake continue to meet with success. From 1984-2012, nest success on new artificial islands has averaged 65%, nearly double that of natural sites in the area. In

2012 alone, artificial islands built through the combined efforts the Chugach, its partners, and volunteers, produced 86 successful nests.



CHUGACH CHILDREN'S FOREST



The Chugach Children's Forest (CCF) is a partnership led by the USDA Forest Service and Alaska Geographic offering Alaska's diverse youth, educators, and communities opportunities to connect with the magnificent Chugach National Forest and neighboring public lands.

A vast and inspiring landscape, the Chugach is the "backyard" for half of Alaska's population. People come from around the world to experience this

landscape but children and families from many Anchorage neighborhoods have never set foot in the forest. Urban and rural youth alike often lack the resources to participate in life-changing experiences in the outdoors.

The Chugach Children's Forest is about experiencing both the joy that comes from simply going outdoors, and helping us all understand and have a part in solving the challenges of today and tomorrow, from climate change to growing the next generation of public land leaders.

Since 2009, over twenty thousand youth, educators and volunteers have been engaged in the Chugach Children's Forest.



Spring Field trips

Nearly 600 youth participated in sponsored field trips covering projects like weed pulls, garbage removal, plant identification, bird surveys, mapping and trail clearing.



Marine Stewardship Expedition

Eight middle school students from Chenega Bay, Cordova, Valdez, and the Anchorage area journeyed to Prince William Sound to monitor oil spill recovery efforts and remove marine debris from area beaches. Funding came from EVOS (through the Gulf of Alaska Keepers), PWSRCAC, Chugach National Forest, and REI.



iTREC! – Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom

In its 3rd year of providing educators with place-based service learning skills using the Iditarod National Historic Trail as its model, iTREC! has trained 40 teachers who are reaching nearly 3000 K-12 students in rural and urban communities along the Iditarod trail.



Kids' Hike and Fish Day

Healthful outdoor exercise, education about the forest ecosystem, and a lesson on a variety of fish topics; what more could you want? And best of all, the kids have a fun day of catching fish and then eating them, cooked up by Forest Service chefs.

GET OUT! GO WILD! CHANGE THE FUTURE!



American Hiking Society Volunteers

Six members (ages 22-65) of the American Hiking Society spent a week on the Chugach working on invasive plant removal.



Ice Patch Expedition

Thirteen Alaska Native youth, ages 14-18, spent a week in Devil's Pass along the Resurrection Pass Trail practicing archaeology and discovering more about their cultural heritage.



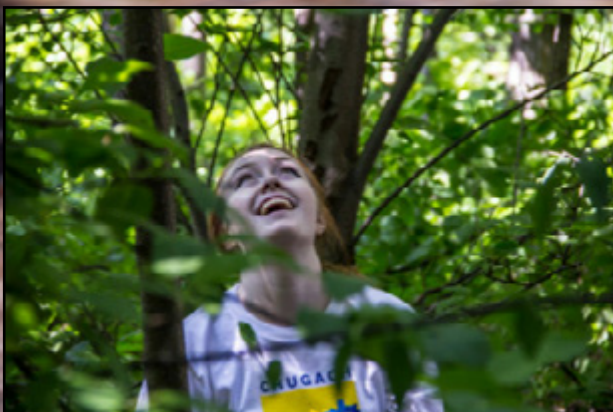
Community Service

Last fall, Alaska Geographic and the Chugach National Forest teamed up with classes from Anchorage School District to remediate wetlands at the mouth of Campbell Creek. Kids from all over town participated in projects combining a naturalist's appreciation of the area with data-driven studies.



Habitat Restoration Kayaking Expeditions

CCF launched two stewardship expeditions bringing youth from varied cultural and economic backgrounds to the Sound for habitat restoration. These expeditions also focused on recreational opportunities on the Chugach National Forest, and included seventeen teens from around the Chugach including Valdez, Tatitlek, Whittier, Girdwood, and Anchorage.



Micro-Expeditions

21 youth ages 12-19 participated in a variety of day-long stewardship programs for "veteran" CCF participants. These involved weed pulls in Anchorage, Portage Valley, and along the Russian River

MORE THAN 2 DOZEN PARTNERS CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES TO SUPPORT PROGRAMMING

Anchorage REI • Prince William Sound Science Center • Alaska Center For Coastal Studies • Alaska Airlines • Alaska Pacific University • Alaska Teen Media Institute, Spirit Of Youth • Alaska Railroad • Anchorage Park Foundation • Anchorage School District • Anchorage Waterways Council • Audubon Alaska • Babkin Charters • Begich Middle School • Brave New Alaskan Voices • Chugach School District • Content Producers Guild • Copper River Watershed Project • Highland Tech High School • Kenaitze Indian Tribe • King Career Center • Mears Middle School • Municipality Of Anchorage Parks And Recreation • North Face • NEEF • Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council • Qutekcak Native Tribe • Student Conservation Association • University of Alaska Anchorage



photos courtesy of Alaska Geographic

PARTNERSHIPS



HOMETOWN U: UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE & CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

U.S. Forest Service fisheries biologist Mark Chilcote, UAA biology professor Douglas Causey and three students, Maio Nishkian, Kalie Dickey and John Flanagan, went hunting for young salmon in Portage Valley creeks and ponds. Using salmon eggs in minnow traps, success came Nov. 4 at the North Fork Williwaw Pond, a restored gravel-mining site fed by groundwater.

They captured 33 juvenile chinook, two coho and 13 Dolly Varden on their second trip out. "This is the first documentation of chinook in this area," said Chilcote. He was excited enough to share the team's findings with Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist Dan Bosch who said it was the first ever record of kings in the area.

The UAA students figured the salmon would behave as efficiently as possible, and want to be near groundwater sources with raised temperatures and in slow-moving water. And that's what they found.

Working as a team, they trapped and anesthetized the fish, and marked and measured them. Then they were revived and set free.

The students compared their findings with results from two surveys done by interns in 1976 and 1977 which failed to identify any chinook juveniles in the area, though they found coho, stickleback and Dolly Varden.

In a later report to the class and to field scientists from the ADF&G and the U.S. Forest Service, students commented on how old the previous survey data was. "Sampling has not been done for our entire lifetimes," noted Nishkian, a detail greeted with laughter.

In the Q & A that followed, Forest Supervisor Terri Marceron commented on how difficult it can be to manage the forest with such outdated data and how welcome the students' fresh numbers were.

The work was part of Prof. Causey's new course "Exploration Ecology" pairing UAA students with field biologists, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

"I wanted to give students the opportunity to develop research projects that had real impact on what we know about the Alaska environment and they certainly succeeded," Causey said. Several of the students planned on continuing the work during the spring semester.

Excerpted with permission from a story by Kathleen McCoy originally titled **Hometown U: Portage Valley a prime habitat for troubled chinook** and published December 29, 2012 on the Anchorage Daily News website.



PARTNERSHIPS



Chugach National Forest **AVALANCHE** Information Center



The Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center (CNFAIC) is one of approximately fifteen agency avalanche centers across the nation affiliated with the US



The CNFAIC Crew hard at work

Forest Service National Avalanche Center. The CNFAIC is a partnership between Chugach National Forest and a non-profit Friends Group that provides fund-raising, outreach, and financial support to the avalanche center. The CNFAIC provides an important and popular service to the general public in one of the most actively used winter recreation regions of Alaska, a state with the highest per capita avalanche fatality rate in the nation.

The center's mission is to provide current and accurate avalanche and mountain weather information and offer basic avalanche awareness education. Public safety is of primary concern, and the CNFAIC strives to deliver clear and concise information that benefits any user, from the beginner backcountry traveler to the professional avalanche forecaster. The CNFAIC advises backcountry users on current avalanche danger and provides daily avalanche bulletins using industry-standard descriptions. CNFAIC also offers educational events, giving lectures and backcountry sessions. These opportunities are provided free of charge to the public, in classrooms, and to user groups who request CNFAIC's special expertise.

KEVIN WRIGHT NAMED TO "TOP 40 UNDER 40"



The CNFAIC's own Director Kevin Wright was chosen by the Alaska Journal of Commerce to be on it's prestigious annual list of

Alaska's younger movers and shakers. The "Top 40 under 40" honors those who have a positive and powerful influence on our state, and in Mr. Wright's case, on our Forest.

FRIENDS OF CNFAIC

Formed in 2003 F-CNFAIC helps pay forecaster salaries, and operates the instruments and web cams that are extremely valuable in assisting forecasters. Backcountry enthusiasts have come to rely on this instrumentation and in the past few winters weather stations were established at three additional sites in South Central Alaska: Seattle Ridge (with web cams), Fresno Ridge, and Marmot Ridge near Hatcher Pass.

PARTNERSHIPS - EVENTS/FESTIVALS



CORDOVA FUNGUS FESTIVAL

Each September Cordova welcomes gourmands and gourmets from everywhere to come and forage for forest fungi, have a little fun, cook up a storm, and hang out with the locals.



As a new neighbor to the Alaska Railroad, the Chugach naturally took part in the Alaska Railroad Days festivities, providing info on recreation opportunities and the Chugach Children's Forest. There were also reports of Smokey Bear sightings.



national get outdoors day

The Forest joined with multiple partners to offer nature-related games & prizes, invertebrate sampling, birding stations along Potter Marsh boardwalk, birds from the Bird Treatment and Learning Center, animals from the Alaska Zoo, fly and spin casting practice, and plant walks.



COPPER RIVER DELTA SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL

A great opportunity to watch the millions of shorebirds that rest and feed here. In addition to bird watching, the community sponsored festival offers a myriad of activities and workshops every May.



GIRDWOOD FUNGUS FAIR

Enjoy all things fungus in Girdwood. Join the FUN by taking part in a run, heading out on fungus walks, learning how to use fungus to dye fabric, or eating some marvelous food at the Fungus Fair Formal.



COPPER RIVER WILD! SALMON FESTIVAL

Every July, join any of 5 fun runs, named after the 5 different salmon species, rock out after the 5 different salmon species, rock out at the Salmon Jam sessions, take part in a host of salmon-centered crafts and eat the best salmon around.

LOCAL/GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

TERN LAKE HAZARDOUS FUEL



Volunteer Fire Departments, USFS, Alaska Division of Forestry and local groups working together, developed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifying fuel hazards, values at risk from wildfire, and the area's fire history.

In 2012 dead and dying spruce was removed from 10 units (390 acres) reducing fuel loading which in turn would reduce the intensity of a possible wildland fire. Various other treatments done in individual units included thinning of understory trees by chainsaw and mechanical piling of dead and downed material by a private contractor, providing a fuel-wood source for the local community.

Limbs and bole wood were chipped in units adjacent to private land to reduce both smoke impacts from burning residual slash and the potential risk of an escaped prescribed wildfire.



Lake Baikal, Siberia

ADVENTURE & COMMUNITY

The Chugach, along with our sister forest the Tongass again crafted an award-winning poster series, available for free to the public.

The posters are still turning heads a year later, and are a popular souvenir of a trip to the

Chugach. In October of 2012 two Chugach employees selected by USDA's International Programs travelled to Siberia to consult and provide training for the local trail organization at the foot of Lake Baikal.

For the Chugach employees the chance to work on the shores of the famous body of water and to share their specialized skills with the well-spoken NGOs (English was the lingua franca) was both personally and professionally gratifying. And at the end of two weeks, the Greater Baikal Trail Organization was much better versed in how to plan for and appeal to the burgeoning number of foreign visitors.



SUBSISTENCE HARVEST SUMMARY - 2012

Freshwater fish permits for Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta
66 permits issued – anglers harvested 392 coho and 64 sockeye

Unit 6C moose hunt – Copper River Delta
586 Cordova residents applied for 21 bull moose permits and 40 antler-less moose permits; 16 bull moose and 33 antler-less moose were reported harvested

Unit 7 and 15 Moose
31 permits issued to residents of Cooper Landing for Unit 7 – 1 moose harvested
20 permits issued to residents of Hope for Unit 7
28 permits issued to residents of Cooper Landing for Unit 15

Unit 7 Caribou
19 permits issued to residents of Hope – 2 caribou harvested

Russian River Salmon
75 permits issued to Cooper Landing residents – harvested 998 sockeye salmon
29 permits issued to Hope residents – harvested 287 sockeye salmon

This year, the Chugach, with help from the public and the public's representatives, designed a publication to help you direct your subsistence questions to the appropriate agencies.



LOCAL/GLOBAL CONNECTIONS - Diverse Networks

TRIBAL CONNECTIONS

Alaska Natives have fished, hunted, subsisted, and lived on lands now established as the Chugach National Forest since times immemorial. The Forest is the traditional home of the Chugach Eskimo, Eyak Indian, and some Ahtna Athabaskan Indian peoples. The cultural identities and subsistence lifestyles of these peoples are linked to forest and coastal Southcentral Alaska ecosystems.

The Chugach National Forest maintains relationships with 12 federally recognized tribes, 12 village corporations, three regional groups, two Native regional non-profits, and two ANCSA Regional Corporations (Chugach Alaska and Cook Inlet Region, Inc.). The relationship and consultation extends beyond the Forest boundaries to tribes currently not located on the Chugach, but with historical ties to this land.

The Forest is also a strong participant in the USFS Alaska Region's Alaska Tribal Leaders Committee (ATLC). These meetings offer the opportunity to advance cooperative government-to-government relationships promoting sustainable forests, resources and communities. The Chugach is committed to integrating the cultural heritage and traditional indigenous knowledge of Alaska Natives into the Forest's programs and processes.

IN 2012 more than 38 consultations took place between the Chugach and tribes, corporations, and regional groups.

Last year the Forest established a formal memorandum of understanding with the Eyak Corporation, allowing formal partnerships on mutually beneficial projects. We awarded a \$9500 grant for Kenaitze youth to participate in an Ice Patch Survey project on the Forest.

The Forest hosted two Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) interns for summer 2012. The ANSEP students worked on wildlife, public outreach, ecology, and engineering projects.

Among the year's highlights was our attendance at a land conveyance ceremony. The event celebrated the successful collaboration of Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI), Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Forest Service as they worked together to identify a resolution to CIRI's land claims in the Russian River area.

ANSEP INTERNS FOR 2012

Abby Fisher



A recent graduate of Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, Alaska, Abby is a natural science major at UAA focused on environmental issues. During her internship she spent a week each with ecology, public affairs, wildlife, and GIS.

Clarissa Zeller



Clarissa Zeller worked on the Cordova Ranger District as a Biology Intern. She is a 2nd-year ANSEP student and a sophomore at the University of Alaska Fairbanks majoring in Biological Sciences. She spent a majority of her eight week internship working on the dusky Canada geese nest islands and helping build a new ATV trail.

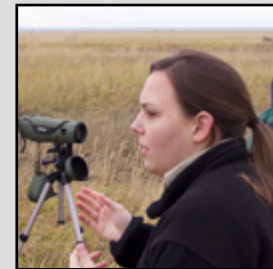


Six Alaskan Native youth from all over Alaska – Galena, Seward, Gustavus, Fairbanks, and Anchorage, worked together on a Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew for four weeks.

In the first two weeks, the crew worked on the Resurrection River Trail, the Lost Lake trail, and the Six Mile Creek Trail. Projects included the addition of drainage features, reroutes, trail widening, and trail hardening. During the second week, they contributed to a multi-agency weed pull on Exit Glacier Road. The youth worked with the Forest's fisheries management crew in week three. And, in the fourth week, the crew worked to restore the Chugach's historic Hubbard Cabin.



mobilize green
YOUTH. ACTION. IMPACT



Haley Huff, a geological sciences student at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), served as the USFS Alaska Region's MobilizeGreen intern on the Chugach National Forest. MobilizeGreen internships are

developmental opportunities for college students or recent graduates interested in acquiring experience in natural and cultural resources and developing awareness of Green and Environmental Sustainability strategies. Interns work with professional Forest Service employees, partners and the public to strengthen volunteerism and service on the National Forests and Grasslands.

FOREST HIGHLIGHTS...



GLACIER RANGER DISTRICT TURNAGAIN PASS

About 60 miles south of Anchorage on the scenic Seward Highway, Turnagain Pass is the literal highpoint of the drive south.

While it's a beautiful spot in the summer time (see the cover of this publication) Turnagain really comes into its own during the winter. The yards of snow that fall there each from fall to late spring attract backcountry enthusiasts of all persuasions.

With the road acting as a dividing line, skiers and snowboarders attack the east side while snowmachiners carve through the powder on the west. It's world-class sport for everyone when the snow flies in Turnagain, sometimes into the sunny evenings of May.



CORDOVA RANGER DISTRICT ALAGANIK SLOUGH

Alaganik Slough offers visitors an opportunity to explore the wetlands of the Copper River Delta. At Mile 17 on the Copper River Highway, turn off onto a 3.3-mile road that leads to the slough. The boardwalk provides a way to immerse yourself in the coastal wetlands of the Copper River Delta.

Wildlife is most abundant at Alaganik during spring and fall. Visitors may look over the expansive wetlands and sight a variety of animals including trumpeter swans, moose, brown bear, and shorebirds.



SEWARD RANGER DISTRICT PORCUPINE CAMPGROUND

Porcupine Campground, located conveniently on the edge of Hope and the end of the Hope Highway, has been newly remodeled. Boasting 34 newly redone campsites, 14 of which border on the scenic waters of Turnagain Arm, Porcupine has a distinct (and popular) end-of-the road vibe. Make sure to reserve early.

You can't get any farther down the highway than this, unless you set out on foot along the Arm for Gull Rock, or head up to Hope Point Trail, for a spectacular and well-deserved view of the entire area. If you go up, keep your eyes peeled for mountain goats on the high peaks.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.